



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6870  
April 7, 2026  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6870: Parking Enforcement System Appropriation Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Appropriate \$110,000 from the Technology and Equipment Fund (330) to acquire and install a parking enforcement system.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Police
<b>STAFF:</b>	Michelle Bennett, Police Chief Carson Hornsby, Management Analyst II Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst II
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	n/a
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ 110,000
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ 0
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ 110,000

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda ITEM is to request a budget appropriation to acquire and install a new parking enforcement system.

- At the December 2, 2025 City Council meeting, staff presented an overview of technology upgrades in the 2025-2026 Police Department Work Plan ([AB 6830](#)). The City Council appropriated \$100,710 toward a new digital evidence management system and in-car digital video recording system with plans to address parking enforcement and body-worn cameras as separate items.
- Following the expiration of the City’s parking enforcement contract in September 2025, the associated Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware suffered a total mechanical failure in October 2025. Until a new system is implemented, the Police Department is conducting all parking enforcement manually. This interim process is inefficient, labor-intensive, and unsustainable as a long-term operational strategy.
- Consequently, staff committed to returning to Council in 2026 to request a budget appropriation for a replacement system.
- In January 2026, the City published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new parking enforcement system ([RFP No. 26-06](#)) with a deadline to submit proposals by February 24, 2026. After careful

review, the evaluation committee rejected all proposals due to high costs and long project implementation timelines.

- The City revised the scope of work to include ALPR kits for two vehicles and system integration with the City's existing ticketing application (Brazos) and payment application (ParkMobile) to reduce the cost and implementation timeline. Staff requested quotes from five vendors for the revised scope.
- Staff recommend entering into a contract with Route1, Inc. to acquire and install a parking enforcement system. Route1 is a partner and dealer of ALPR equipment manufactured by Genetec.
- A total appropriation of \$110,000 from the Technology and Equipment Fund (330) is recommended to support the negotiation of a contract for the new parking enforcement system and to purchase one additional handheld ticket printer from Brazos for the second parking enforcement vehicle. The recurring cost is estimated at \$15,000 per year and will be incorporated into the Police Department's operating budget in the 2027-2028 biennium.

## BACKGROUND

At the December 2, 2025 City Council meeting, staff presented an overview of technology upgrades in the 2025-2026 Police Department Work Plan ([AB 6830](#)) and the City Council appropriated \$100,710 to acquire a new digital evidence management system and in-car digital video recording system. The City executed a contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. in December 2025 for these technology systems. As part of AB 6830, staff provided a recommendation to the City Council to address parking enforcement and body-worn cameras as separate items and committed to returning to Council in 2026 to request appropriation for a new parking enforcement system.

The City's prior parking enforcement contract was authorized by the City Council in 2020 ([AB 5718](#)) and the contract expired in September 2025. Per the contract, the Police Support Officer (PSO) vehicle was equipped with three ALPRs for parking enforcement. By the end of 2025, two of the three ALPRs had mechanically failed and are no longer covered by a warranty. The Police Department is conducting parking enforcement operations manually until a new system is implemented.

The demand for parking in Town Center, and the need for parking enforcement, is expected to increase due to the opening of the East Link Light Rail Extension and the Mercer Island Sound Transit station. A temporary increase in parking demand is also anticipated during the FIFA World Cup matches in Seattle this summer.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

### Parking Enforcement Systems Overview

Modern parking enforcement systems integrate ALPR hardware, portable devices, and cloud-based software to streamline parking compliance and oversight. These systems automate the identification of time-limit and payment violations, replacing labor-intensive manual processes with real-time data. Parking enforcement solutions are customizable, allowing municipalities to configure hardware and software from multiple vendors to meet specific local needs.

Parking enforcement vehicles are equipped with mobile ALPRs positioned to capture images of license plates of parked vehicles. Cloud-based software instantly compares the license plate numbers against a database of parking payment data or time limit violations. The software can include tools such as GPS location data and "digital chalking" to track the time and location of parked vehicles. Officers use a handheld device or mobile application to issue infractions using data captured by ALPRs.

## **Request for Proposals**

On January 27, 2026, the City published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new parking enforcement system ([RFP No. 26-06](#)) with a deadline of February 24, 2026. The City received proposals from 11 vendors. After careful review, the evaluation committee rejected all proposals due to high cost and long project implementation timelines.

## **Request for Quotes**

The scope of work from the RFP was revised to include ALPR kits for two vehicles and system integration with the City's existing ticketing application (Brazos) and payment application (ParkMobile) to reduce the cost and implementation timeline. Staff requested quotes from five vendors for the revised scope of work.

Staff recommend entering into a contract with Route1, Inc. to acquire and install the parking enforcement system. Route1 is a partner and dealer of ALPR equipment manufactured by Genetec, which is utilized by several cities in Washington State. Route1 representatives held two meetings with staff to understand the City's needs and present their recommendations and quote. Route1 was selected as the preferred vendor due to the reliability of their products, competitive pricing, prior integration experience with Brazos and ParkMobile, and their ability to meet the City's desired timeline.

## **Budgetary Impacts**

The City's Technology and Equipment Fund (330) accounts for general government capital investments in technology software, furnishings, and equipment. An annual interfund transfer from the General Fund is the main revenue source for this fund.

At the end of 2025, staff estimate the available balance in Fund 330 was \$940,500. Of this amount, a \$110,000 one-time appropriation of unassigned fund balance is required to procure and install the new parking enforcement system. The proposed appropriation supports the initial acquisition of the system, the first year of recurring support and maintenance costs, and a separate purchase of one additional Brazos handheld ticket printer for the second parking enforcement vehicle.

Recurring costs for the parking enforcement system are estimated at \$15,000 per year to operate and maintain the system. The expected useful life of this technology is five years.

Staff will update internal user charges as part of the 2027-2028 biennial budget for the City's Equipment Rental Fund (510) for the parking enforcement system's eventual replacement. Ongoing expenses will be incorporated into the Police Department's operating budget in the 2027-2028 biennium. Budget authority for subsequent years will be included in the biennial budget and is contingent on City Council approval.

## **WA Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Innovation Fund**

The [WA Byrne Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Innovation Fund](#) administered by the WA State Department of Commerce provides funding to support local government programs related to law enforcement, criminal justice, behavioral health, and technology improvement.

The City submitted a grant application to the WA Byrne JAG Innovation Fund to support acquisition of the parking enforcement system. The City was notified on March 26 that it was not selected for a grant award.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will negotiate and execute a professional services agreement with Route1, Inc., an Arizona-based company, for a one-year term with subsequent annual renewals at the City's option. Funding for future annual contract renewals is contingent on Council budget approval.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Appropriate \$110,000 from the Technology and Equipment Fund (330) to acquire and install a parking enforcement system.